

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing cameras to consumers in exchange for a commitment, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 3 providing an electronic network through which a camera provider electronically communicates with a consumer to generate a contract, said contract comprising the terms for:
 - 6 offering by said camera provider to provide said camera for a commitment by the consumer to purchase at least a first amount of image reproductions within a selected amount of time, and
 - 9 committing by said consumer to purchase at least the first amount of image reproductions within the selected amount of time;
 - 11 determining via said electronic network that the consumer has at least one of a plurality of financial instruments;
 - 13 providing the consumer with the camera, in response to the consumer entering into the commitment and determining via said contractual

15 interface electronic network that said consumer has at least one of the
16 plurality financial instruments;

17 connecting said camera to electronically communicate via said electronic
18 network to an image processor and transferring images acquired by
19 said camera to said image processor; and

20 printing reproductions of at least one of the images having restricted
21 access.

1 2. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 8, further comprising the
2 step of connecting said camera to electronically communicate via said electronic
3 network for granting access to images taken with the camera to be displayed on
4 a camera display.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of connecting said camera to electronically communicate via said electronic
3 network for granting access to low resolution versions of images taken with the
4 camera to be transferred from the camera.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 connecting someone other than the consumer to communicate via said
4 electronic network;

5 receiving an order via said electronic network under said contract for at
6 least one image print from someone other than the consumer; and
7 crediting under said contract the consumer's commitment fulfillment based
8 on said order.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 connecting someone other than the consumer to communicate via said
4 electronic network;

5 receiving an order via said electronic network under said contract for an
6 image reproduction from someone other than the consumer; and

7 providing under said contract the consumer with a benefit based on said
8 order.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least one
2 image is received from a terminal connected to communicate via said electronic
3 network to which at least one of said images has been transferred from the
4 camera.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein access to
2 said images taken by the camera is restricted by the camera until the consumer

3 has fulfilled the commitment and an unlocking code has been received via said
4 electronic network by the camera.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of connecting said camera to electronically communicate via said electronic
3 network for restricting access by said consumer to images acquired by the
4 camera and retained within said camera to prevent the consumer from obtaining
5 reproductions of the images made from a source not associated with the camera
6 provider;

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the camera is
2 provided, at least partly, in response to an amount paid by the consumer for the
3 camera, wherein the amount is related to the number of reproductions the
4 consumer has committed to purchase under said contract.

1 10. (Cancelled)

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 ~~steps-step of connecting said camera to electronically communicate via said~~
3 ~~electronic network and transferring said camera usage information to a user~~
4 ~~information database connected to said electronic network, whereby said camera~~
5 ~~usage information includes:~~

6 average number of pictures captured before upload of pictures;

7 average number of pictures captured vs. number of pictures printed;

8 time of day or year when camera is most likely to be used and frequency
9 of flash usage;
10 amount of time spent viewing each image on the LCD viewfinder;
11 amount of time spent editing each image on-camera;
12 number of images captured over a given time period;
13 typical or average preferences for print numbers, sizes, and other
14 products ordered;
15 track which advertisements/promotions the user investigated or generated
16 a "click-through" experience;
17 track how many different locations to which the user had prints shipped;
18 track the user classification of a photo gallery.

- 1 12. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 11, further comprising
2 the step of selecting advertising to be presented to the user based at least in part
3 on the camera usage information.
- 1 13. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 11, further comprising
2 the step of modifying camera performance based at least in part on the camera
3 usage information.
- 1 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the step of
2 restricting access to said images comprises the step of encrypting by the camera
3 of at least a first image captured by said camera to prevent the user from having
4 prints of at least the first image from a source not associated with a provider of
5 said camera.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the type of
2 camera provided is based, at least in part, on the extent of the commitment.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first
2 amount is a dollar amount.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first
2 amount is a quantity of image reproductions.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving user profile information via said electronic network; and

4 storing at least a portion of the user profile information in the camera.

- 1 24. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the
 - 2 commitment is to be fulfilled within a predetermined amount of time.
 - 1 25. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 24, further comprising
 - 2 the step of fixing the price to the user of at least a first type of image reproduction
 - 3 provided under said contract for at least the predetermined amount of time.
 - 1 26. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
 - 2 step of receiving an order for hard copy image reproductions, where the user
 - 3 places the order using a camera user interface connected to communicate via
 - 4 said electronic network.
 - 1 27. (Cancelled)
 - 1 28. (Cancelled)
 - 1 29. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
 - 2 step of downloading via said electronic network an advertisement into the
 - 3 camera and displaying the advertisement on a camera display.
 - 1 30. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
 - 2 step of receiving a designation from the user as to which print house is to print
 - 3 images ordered by the user.

- 1 31. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the camera is
- 2 provided by a print house.
- 3 32. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the camera is
- 4 provided by a camera manufacturer to an intermediary at a discount, who then
- 5 provides the camera to the user, and the intermediary causes the camera
- 6 manufacturer to be paid an amount based at least in part on user orders for
- 7 image reproductions.
- 1 33. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the camera is
- 2 provided with no initial cost or charge to the user.
- 1 34. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the camera is
- 2 provided at a reduced cost to the user in exchange for the commitment.
- 1 35. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein providing said
- 2 camera comprises the steps of:
 - 3 offering to rent said camera to consumer in exchange for a first fee;
 - 4 and
 - 5 offering to reduce said first fee for said camera for a commitment to
 - 6 purchase at least a first amount of reproductions of images from
 - 7 said camera.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the camera
2 is rented at an automated kiosk.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the
2 consumer is charged an additional fee if the camera is not returned within a
3 predetermined amount of time.

1 38. (Cancelled)

1 39. (Cancelled)

1 40. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the camera
2 provider is a camera distributor.

3 a camera distributor.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 40, where the camera
2 manufacturer provides the camera at a discount in return for a commitment on
3 the part of the distributor that the camera manufacturer will be paid at least said
4 first amount.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein providing said
2 camera comprises the steps of :

3 offering to lease said camera for a predetermined period wherein said
4 lease includes providing said consumer with a first number of prints
5 at no additional cost as part of the lease, and

6 receiving a commitment electronic network by said consumer to lease
7 the camera for the predetermined period;
8 providing said consumer with the first number of prints at no additional
9 cost as part of the lease; and
10 providing additional prints beyond the first number of prints for no more
11 than a predetermined fee.

1 43. (Cancelled)

1 44. (Cancelled)

1 45. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 transferring personal information via electronic network from said
4 consumer to said camera provider; and

5 retaining said personal information within a consumer database.

1 46. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 46 wherein said personal
2 information comprises

3 consumer name;

4 consumer identification code;

5 mailing address;

6 billing address;

7 e-mail address;

8 other contact information such as phone numbers and fax numbers;

9 billing information, including credit card information;

10 preferred print image provider;

11 reprint / enlargement size preference;

12 reprint / enlargement size preference;

13 finish preference;

14 camera brand, type, and specifications;

15 internet service type and connection speed;

16 contract data: picture development and reproduction counters,

17 number of prints remaining to meet contract commitment;

18 security settings, unlocking keys, activation code; and

19 usage pattern information.

- 1 47. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 46 further comprising the
- 2 step of providing advertising to said consumer through said camera transferred
- 3 over said electronic network when said camera is connected to communicate via
- 4 said electronic network based on said personal information.
- 1 48. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 46 further comprising the
- 2 step of providing coupons to said consumer based on said personal information.
- 1 49. (Cancelled)
- 1 50. (Cancelled)
- 1 51. (Cancelled)
- 1 52. (Cancelled)
- 1 53. (Cancelled)
- 1 54. (Cancelled)
- 1 55. (Cancelled)
- 1 56. (Previously Presented) A camera distribution system for providing cameras to
- 2 consumers in exchange for a commitment comprising:
 - 3 a camera provider offering at least one of said cameras for a commitment
 - 4 by the consumer to purchase at least a first amount of image
 - 5 reproductions;

6 an electronic network that allows electronic communication between said
7 camera provider and said consumer wherein said consumer commits
8 to purchase of at least the first amount of image reproductions within
9 the selected amount of time and the camera provider provides the
10 consumer with at least one of the cameras, in response to the
11 consumer entering into the commitment;

12 an image processor in communication with said consumer via said
13 electronic network to receive images acquired by said camera to an
14 image processor;

15 an image printing device associated with said image processor for
16 reproduction the secured first image.

1 57. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 66,
2 wherein images taken with the camera are permitted to be displayed on a
3 camera display.

1 58. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein said camera is connected to communicate via said electronic network to
3 grant permission for low resolution versions of images taken with the camera to
4 be transferred from the camera.

1 59. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the image processor receives an order for an image print from someone

3 other than the consumer; and said image processor credits the consumer's
4 commitment fulfillment based on the order.

1 60. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the image processor receives an order for an image reproduction from
3 someone other than the consumer; and said image processor provides the
4 consumer a benefit based on the order.

1 61. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the secured first image is received from a terminal connected to
3 communicate via said electronic network to which the first image has been
4 transferred from the camera.

1 62. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein images taken by the camera are secured by the camera until the
3 consumer has fulfilled the commitment and an unlocking code has been received
4 by the camera when said camera is connected to communicate via said
5 electronic network.

1 63. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the image processor receives via said electronic network in association
3 with the first secured image at least one of ISO equivalency information, aperture
4 setting information, and shutter speed information.

1 64. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the camera provided is at least partly in response to an amount paid by

3 the consumer for the camera, wherein the amount is related to the number of
4 reproductions the consumer committed to purchase.

1 65. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 further comprising an image securing device associated with said camera to
3 prevent reproduction of at least a first image acquired from the camera by a
4 source not associated with the camera provider, wherein the image securing
5 device encrypts said first image within said camera upon receipt of an encryption
6 key from said camera provider via said electronic network.

1 66. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 further comprising:

3 a consumer database in communication with the camera provider
4 retaining personal information transferred from said consumer to said
5 camera provider.

1 67. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 67
2 wherein said personal information comprises:

3 consumer name;

4 consumer identification code;

5 mailing address;

6 billing address;

7 e-mail address;

8 other contact information such as phone numbers and fax numbers;

9 billing information, including credit card information;

10 preferred print image provider;

11 reprint / enlargement size preference;

12 reprint / enlargement size preference;

13 finish preference;

14 camera brand, type, and specifications;

15 internet service type and connection speed;

16 contract data: picture development and reproduction counters,

17 number of prints remaining to meet contract commitment;

18 security settings, unlocking keys, activation code; and

19 usage pattern information.

- 1 68. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 67
2 further comprising an advertising provider in communication via said electronic
3 network with the consumer database and image processor to associate

4 advertising information with said image reproductions based on said personal
5 information in return for credit toward said commitment for image reproductions.

1 69. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 69
2 wherein the advertising provider imparts coupons to said consumer based on
3 said personal information.

1 70. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider discounts the price of said camera for the
3 commitment by said consumer to purchase at least the first amount of image
4 reproductions.

1 71. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider leases said camera as a result of the commitment
3 by said consumer to the purchase of at least the first amount of image
4 reproductions.

1 72. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider offers said camera at no cost as a result of the
3 commitment by said consumer to the purchase of at least the first amount of
4 image reproductions.

1 73. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider and the image processor are associated with the
3 camera manufacturer.

- 1 74. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the consumer reviews said images acquired by said camera and selects
3 desired images acquired by said camera for transfer to said image processor for
4 reproduction.
- 1 75. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 75
2 further comprising an image database associated with said image processor to
3 receive and retain said images acquired by said camera and transferred to said
4 image processor.
- 1 77. (Previously Presented) A medium for retaining a computer code which, when
2 executed on a computing system performs a program process for providing
3 cameras to consumers in exchange for a commitment, said program process
4 comprising the steps of:
5 providing an electronic network through which a camera provider and a
6 consumer electronically communicates to generate a contract where
7 said consumer acquires at least one camera in exchange for said
8 commitment, wherein said contract comprises the terms for:
9 offering by said camera provider to provide said camera for a
10 commitment by the consumer to purchase at least a first amount of
11 image reproductions within a selected amount of time, and

12 committing by said consumer to the purchase of at least the first
13 amount of image reproductions within the selected amount of time;
14 determining via said electronic network that the consumer has at least one
15 of a plurality of financial instruments;
16 providing the consumer with the camera, in response to the consumer
17 entering into the commitment and determining that the consumer has
18 at least one of the plurality of financial instruments;
19 connecting said camera to electronically communicate via said electronic
20 network with an image processor;
21 transferring images acquired by said camera to said image processor;
22 and
23 printing reproductions of at least one of images having restricted access.

- 1 78. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises allowing images taken with the camera to be
3 displayed on a camera display.

1 79. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises allowing low resolution versions of images
3 taken with the camera to be transferred from the camera.

1 80. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises:

3 connecting someone other than the consumer to said electronic network;

4 receiving an order via said electronic network for an image print from
5 someone other than the consumer; and

6 crediting the consumer's commitment fulfillment based on the order.

1 81. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises:

3 connecting someone other than the consumer to communicate via said
4 electronic network;

5 receiving an order via said electronic network for an image reproduction
6 from someone other than the consumer; and

7 providing the consumer a benefit based on the order.

1 82. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, further comprising
2 the step of connecting said camera to communicate via said network for
3 restricting access to images acquired from the camera to prevent the consumer
4 from obtaining reproductions of images made from a source not associated with
5 the camera provider.

- 1 83. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein images
2 taken by the camera are secured by the camera until the consumer has fulfilled
3 the commitment and an unlocking code has been received by the camera.

- 1 84. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises receiving, in association with the first secured
3 image, at least one of ISO equivalency information, aperture setting information,
4 and shutter speed information.

- 1 85. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein the camera
2 is provided, at least partly, in response to an amount paid by the consumer for
3 the camera, wherein the amount is related to the number of reproductions the
4 consumer committed to purchase.

- 1 86. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 82 wherein the step of
2 restricting access to said images comprises the step of encrypting at least said
3 first image within said camera.

- 1 87. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the steps of:
3 transferring personal information via said electronic network from said
4 consumer to said camera provider; and
5 retaining said personal information within a consumer database.

- 1 88. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 87 wherein said
2 personal information is selected from the set of personal information consisting
3 of:
4 consumer name;
5 consumer identification code;
6 mailing address;
7 billing address;
8 e-mail address;
9 other contact information such as phone numbers and fax numbers;
10 billing information, including credit card information;
11 preferred print image provider;
12 reprint / enlargement size preference;
13 finish preference;
14 camera brand, type, and specifications;
15 internet service type and connection speed;

16 contract data: picture development and reproduction counters, number
17 of prints remaining to meet contract commitment;
18 security settings, unlocking keys, activation code; and
19 usage pattern information.

1 89. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 87 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the step of providing advertising to said
3 consumer based on said personal information.

1 90. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 87 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the step of providing coupons to said
3 consumer based on said personal information.

1 91. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider discounts the price of said camera for committing by said consumer to
3 the purchase of at least the first amount of image reproductions.

1 92. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider leases said camera for committing by said consumer to the purchase of
3 at least the first amount of image reproductions.

1 93. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider provides said camera at no cost for committing by said consumer to the
3 purchase of at least the first amount of image reproductions.

1 94. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider and the image processor are associated with the camera manufacturer.

1 95. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the step of:

3 reviewing, by the consumer, of said images acquired by said
4 camera; and

5 selecting desired images acquired by said camera for reproduction.

1 96. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 95 wherein said
2 images acquired by said camera are retained in an image database of
3 said image processor.